

## REMARKS

This is a response to the communication dated September 2, 2008.

Claims 1-4 have been amended herein.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in the fifth paragraph of the *"Detailed Description of preferred embodiments"*, specifically, *"LS23 of the PSTN domain and LS24 of the PLMN domain are connected to soft-switch 50 by means of **trunk equipment**, respectively"*, and contents describing steps 402, 503, 603 in the same section.

Support for the amendments to claims 2-4 is also found in the same fifth paragraph of the *"Detailed Description of preferred embodiments"*.

Formal amendments have also been made to claims 1-4.

New claims 17-23 are also presented herewith, with independent device claim 17 having been added with features corresponding to those in amended method claim 1. New claims 18-23 all variously depend from new claim 17.

Clearly, the claim amendments are based on the originally filed application, and no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 15 and 16 have been objected to, but indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Of the claims pending prior to this Amendment, claims 1-2, 5-9, 11 and 14 have been variously rejected as follows:

1. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Lampola U.S. Patent No. 6,668,052.

2. Claim 1, as well as claims 2, 5-9 and 11, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Lowmaster U.S. Publication No. 2006/0062372.
3. Claims 10 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Lowmaster in view of Andruska *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 5,574,780.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections insofar as they would be applied to the claims as presented herein.

**1. Response to Rejections About Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) Over Lampola**

Applicants respectfully submit that *soft-switch* in the technical feature “*routing a call a calling user initiates to a soft-switch;*” in the amended claim 1 is not disclosed or taught by “*a virtual private network utilized in an IP environment, col. 2, line 50*” in *Lampola*. Rather, as will be recognized by persons skilled in the art, the *soft-switch* of the present invention belongs to the application layer above the IP network, that is, the *soft-switch* in amended claim 1 and the *virtual private network utilized in an IP environment* of *Lampola* belong to different network layers, with the *virtual private network utilized in an IP environment* in *Lampola* teaching nothing about the *soft-switch* as recited in the amended claim 1.

Applicants also respectfully submit that “*receiving by the soft-switch the call information the calling user initiates and determining that the calling user is a WAC user by analyzing and recognizing the calling number*” as recited in amended claim 1 is not and cannot be disclosed or taught by “*Centrex subscriber group, col. 3, lines 22-45*” in

*Lampola*. That is, a careful review of lines 22 to 45 in Column 3 of *Lampola* indicates only that a connection between first and second terminals may be set up by using a number included in the private numbering plan, which is far from the meaning expressed by the above cited technical feature in the amended claim 1.

Still further, Applicants respectfully submit that a careful review of all the contents of *Lampola* discloses and teaches nothing with respect to the recitation in claim 1 that “*the WAC is implemented by means of trunk equipment.*”

In view of above, the amended claim 1 of the present invention meets the requirements of U.S.C. 102 (b) over *Lampola*.

**2. Response to Rejections About Claims 1-2, 5-9  
and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) Over Lowmaster**

It should be noted that paragraph [0021] in *Lowmaster* states:

The SCP 112 processes the query from the Class 5 switch 20 based on the routing table 114 and provides a response message back to the Class 5 switch 20. In particular, **the SCP 112 accesses the routing table 114 and responds to the query by providing a routing instruction that directs the Class 5 switch 20 to route the abbreviated-dialed call to the PRI 40 terminating on the IAD 34.** The IAD 34 communicates the abbreviated-dialed call to the IP network 30 for processing by the VOIP server office 70.

(Emphasis added.) Thus it is obvious that in *Lowmaster* the SCP 112 is adapted to providing the routing instruction, which is the same as that described in the sixth paragraph of Applicants’ “*Background of the Invention*”, which states as follows:

SCP 40 finds the long number being called is 7770888 based on the long number 5550888 of the calling and the short number 7001 of the called. Then, SCP 40 instructs SSP 30 to connect to the long number being called 7770888. Thereafter, the connecting process between SSP30 and the called is the same as an ordinary call.

Therefore, it can be seen that the technical solution in *Lowmaster* is implemented using the Intelligent Network (IN), which is just like the prior art described in of the present invention. By contrast, in amended claim 1 as presented herein, it is clear that the soft-switch is adapted to provide the routing function, and the IN is not adopted to solve the technical problem mentioned in the first paragraph in Applicants' "Summary", namely:

the long number and short number transformation is implemented through the IN, needs to save data and consume a great deal of resources in the intelligent SCP, resulting in heavy workload and high cost.

Thus, the technical feature "*determining a route by the soft-switch to the called WAC user by analyzing and recognizing the call information and completing the call;*" in amended claim 1 as presented herein is not and cannot be disclosed or taught by *Lowmaster*.

Thus, on this basis alone, amended claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be novel over *Lowmaster*.

Further, *Lowmaster* describes the soft switch 126 in only one sentence, that is, the last sentence in paragraph [0022] ("The media gateway 122 is controlled by a soft switch 126"). Moreover, *Lowmaster* in paragraph [0016] only refers to the VOIP server office 70 as well as the abbreviated dialing feature server 72, which is far from the meaning expressed by the technical feature "routing a call a calling user initiates to a soft-switch;" in amended claim 1 as presented herein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of paragraph [0016] in *Lowmaster* with the soft switch 126 as disclosed therein does not, and cannot, teach or suggest "routing a call a calling user initiates to a soft-switch" as recited in amended claim 1.

Still further, the Central Exchange (Centrex 14) of *Lowmaster* uses abbreviated dialing routing over VOIP provider's IP 30 to destination (paragraph [0023]) as pointed out by the Examiner, and therefore does not and cannot disclose or teach the specific recited technical feature "receiving by the soft switch the call information the calling user initiates...", not to mention the subsequent actions performed by the soft-switch as claimed (*i.e.*, "determining that the calling user is a WAC user by analyzing and recognizing the calling number"). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the following recited technical feature, "receiving by the soft-switch the call information the calling user initiates and determining that the calling user is a WAC user by analyzing and recognizing the calling number;" is not, and cannot be, disclosed or suggested by *Lowmaster*.

Additionally, as analyzed above, paragraphs [0020]~[0023] in *Lowmaster* explicitly state that it is the SCP 112 adapted for providing the routing instruction, which is different from the technical feature "**determining a route by the soft-switch** to the called WAC user based on the call information and completing the call;" recited in amended claim 1, in which it is the soft-switch adapted for determining the routing. Therefore, that technical feature "determining a route by the soft-switch to the called WAC user based on the call information and completing the call;" in amended claim 1 is not, and cannot be, disclosed or suggested by *Lowmaster*.

Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that a careful review of all of the contents in *Lowmaster* demonstrates that no contents therein may be adapted to disclose or teach the

newly added technical feature “wherein the WAC is implemented by means of trunk equipment” in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, in view of above, amended claim 1 of the present invention is respectfully submitted to be novel over *Lowmaster*. Further, since claims 2, 5-9 and 11 are directly or indirectly referred back to the amended claim 1, they also meet requirements of 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) over *Lowmaster*.

**3. Response to Rejections About Claims 10 and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) Over Lowmaster and Andruska et al.**

Applicants respectfully submit that *Andruska* also does not teach or suggest the technical features in amended claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, taking the previously detailed arguments into consideration, it can be seen that amended claim 1 as presented herein cannot be disclosed or taught by the combination of *Lowmaster* and *Andruska*.

Furthermore, since the WAC is implemented based on the soft-switch as recited in amended claim 1 instead of based on the IN, it is subsequently unnecessary to save data and consume a great deal of resources in the intelligent SCP, thus avoiding heavy workload and high cost. Meanwhile, WAC between users belonging to different domains may be conveniently implemented by adopting the trunk equipment.

Accordingly, since the combination of *Lowmaster* and *Andruska et al* does not teach or suggest amended claim 1, the above advantages cannot be achieved, and since amended claim 1 is inventive over the combination of *Lowmaster* and *Andruska et al.*,

dependent claims 10 and 14, which directly or indirectly depend from amended claim 1, must also meet the requirements of patentability.

**4. New Claims 17-23**

As previously noted, new independent claim 17 is an apparatus claim with recitations corresponding to method claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 18-23 are also submitted to be allowable.

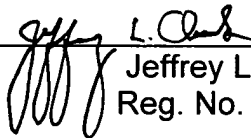
**Conclusion**

For the above stated reasons, all of claims 1-23 are submitted to be allowable. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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